

County Council Meeting
May 21, 2013

Present: Jack Kroeger, Jim Seiler, Blake Bunner, Bill Spaetti, Steve Winsett, Dave Kress, Matt Knepper, Attorney Eric Ayer, Auditor Jane Lynam

Meeting was called to order by President Jack Kroeger at 5:00 P.M.

Minutes

Winsett made a motion to approve the minutes from April 16th. Knepper seconded the motion, motion approved.

Additional Appropriations

County General

Commissioners/Inmate Housing **\$50,000.**

David Gogel as President of the Commissioners made the request and spoke to the Council. Gogel explained that the juveniles are sent to the facility by Court Order and we have to pay the bills. Judge Dartt also spoke to the Council and explained that everything takes time to work through the court system and the County is responsible for the cost until the case is resolved. Winsett asked if we could look at sending them to Carmel instead of Vincennes due to the expense, or work with Community Corrections to save some money. Dartt said that juveniles that are sent to Vincennes are not the type that Community Corrections could work with and we have a contract with Southwest that the Commissioners signed years ago. Kroeger said it is critical that we look at this matter, see if we can find the contract and look at other facilities.

Kress made a motion to approve the \$50,000 for inmate housing. Bunner seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Circuit Court CASA/GAL Match **\$8,600.**

Circuit Court / Guardian Ad Litem **\$10,000.**

Judge Dartt made the request and spoke to the Council. Dartt explained that the first two requests were related, they kind of go hand in hand about what we have been talking about. The State has agreed to match the \$8,600 if you agree to the request for an \$8,600 match. This will help us get the program started this year and cut fees in half, if not more, next year because we won't be paying attorneys. There will be no new county employees; this will be done with a private contract. We will be using a part time director from Warrick County to train our people. Bunner asked if the part time director would turn into a full time position. Dartt said it would not turn into a full time position, they would be using people they have. Everything will be taken care of out of the match, the pay for the director to do the training, pay, office supplies, etc. The \$8,600 match will be a yearly match. Dartt said he could guarantee that it would cut down what the county has to pay. In certain cases, by law, we are required to appoint Guardian Ad Litem. Guardian Ad Litem are attorneys, so they charge attorney fees. Anytime a child is suspected of being abused or neglected, when they come to court the judge has to appoint a Guardian Ad Litem. CASA is Court appointed special advocates, this is someone who is trained within the community, they do not have to be an attorney. Dartt explained that he would need money to finish out the year for paying for the Guardian Ad Litem. Spaetti asked if he could get by with \$7,000 instead of \$10,000. Dartt said he could live with the \$7,000. Spaetti made a motion to approve the \$8,600 for the match and \$7,000 for Guardian Ad Litem. Kress seconded the motion, motion was approved. Bunner then asked if we decide to terminate the program, at any time, what are the rules on that. Dartt explained that he would draft a Memorandum of Understanding and in it would say that it is subject to County Council approval of the cash match and funding of the program. Kroeger asked who would be liable if there would be a problem with one of the people who volunteer. Dartt said the CASA program is ultimately run by an independent contractor so they would be liable for running the program correctly, there would be no liability on the county.

Maximus IV-D Invoices **\$3,540.**

Judge Dartt made the request and spoke to the Council. Dartt said anything we do with IV-D Child Support you basically get back 66% of what we spend. Kroeger asked which fund this money goes into and what it can be used for. The Judge responded that the judge, clerk and prosecutor had told the Council that as long as you pay our employees you can spend the rest of it however you want. Kroeger said he would rather they used the money and cut what we had to spend from county general. Dartt said he would provide a flow chart so the Council could see what was going on with the money. Winsett made a motion to approve the \$3,540. Bunner seconded the motion, motion approved.

Statewide 911

Maintenance Contract **\$41,000.**

Sheriff Lindsey made the request, but no one was present to speak for the request. Since no one was present the request was tabled until the June 18th meeting.

Legal Report

Attorney Ayer presented a Resolution for the Council's approval for payment of the \$300,000 from the COIT fund to fulfill the verbal commitment made earlier. The Resolution sets out four conditions which everyone has now agreed to. Seiler made a motion to approve Resolution No 2013-10 for \$300,000. Kress seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Ayer presented another Resolution for the \$275,000 from AK Steel Settlement fund that the Council had agreed on earlier. Bunner made a motion to approve Resolution No 2013-09 for \$275,000. Spaetti seconded the motion, motion was approved.

The next Resolution presented to the Council by Ayer was a bill from Ice Miller in the amount of \$91,521.80. Winsett said he felt they should have an itemized statement before they consider the bill. Kroeger explained that they have to work together with the Redevelopment Commission and the Commissioners, and he was sure that the Redevelopment Commission had received an itemized statement, it just wasn't included with our information. After more discussion, Kress made a motion to approve Resolution No 2013-12 paying the \$91,521.80 to Ice Miller. Spaetti seconded the motion, the vote was, Kroeger, Spaetti, Seiler, Kress, and Knepper in favor and Winsett and Bunner opposed.

Old Business

Spaetti reported that Jack Kroeger, Jim Seiler, David Gogel, Mickey Toler, Attorney Eric Ayer and himself had all attended the Air Permit Hearing concerning the Fertilizer Plant. Spaetti and Kroeger both spoke in favor of the plant.

New Business

The Way

Ron Conner and Brett Cieslack were both in attendance and spoke to the Council. Conner passed out information to explain what The Way does in the community. Conner explained that The Way is a faith based ministry; they do many things in the community. They help women, but not as much as they would like and they will continue to do this as long as the grant money holds out. They would like to start a new program that provides rehab in jail called Life's' Healthy Choices. Conner said they were requesting that the Council give further consideration for using the old county jail for The Ways' ministry. They have appointed a building committee to study the feasibility of using the building for the ministry headquarters and housing women. We are also asking for \$4,000 per month for 12 months. The State is going to put more burdens on the county; this money will help defray the cost of what is coming.

Brett Cieslack explained that they keep 12 men in the current facility, they would like to remodel and make room for 3 additional, making a total of 15.

Kroeger said he wanted to compliment The Way for everything they do. After much more discussion, Kroeger said for the Council to seriously consider the request we would need an itemized list of what the money you now have is being used for. We represent the taxpayers so we need a business plan, it would be better for us to be able to see something like this before we make any decisions. Winsett told them not to give up, bring a plan together for us to see and we can go from there.

Winsett made a motion to adjourn. Kress seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:17 P.M.

President

Attest:
